

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
FORMER RIFLE/MACHINE GUN RANGE, PARCEL 99Q  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**ISSUED BY: U. S. ARMY**

**MARCH 2003**

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES  
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q, at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision regarding Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-related hazardous substances at this site. The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at Parcel 99Q, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. Issues related to unexploded ordnance (UXO) may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q. The background documents for Parcel 99Q are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
SITE**

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or

realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the CERCLA process.

**SITE BACKGROUND**

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post,

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 99Q

EDAW, Inc., 1997, *Fort McClellan Comprehensive Reuse Plan, Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority of Alabama*, November; Fort McClellan, Updated Reuse Map, Rev. March 2000.

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation, 2003, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, March.

IT Corporation, 2000, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2001, *Archives Search Report Maps, Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama*, Revision 1, September.

which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q, is located in the north-central portion of the Main Post at FTMC (Figure 1). It is one of seven former rifle/machine gun ranges identified in the northern Main Post (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). Parcel 99Q is 320 feet wide and 1,250 feet long and covers approximately 9 acres.

Dates of operation and types of ordnance fired at this range are

unknown. However, it is assumed that small-arms weapons were used. Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q, is shown on Plates 5, 6, and 10 of the *Archives Search Report, Maps, Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama* (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2001). The *Archives Search Report* indicates that the range appears on a 1949 aerial photograph but that by 1958 the range was abandoned. The area is also visible on a 1940 aerial photograph.

Items observed during SI site walks conducted in November 2001 included numerous small rectangular pits, small mounds, part of a 55-gallon drum, and a bullet fragment. In addition, a curved mound, approximately 20 feet long and 5 feet wide, was observed in the south-central portion of the site.

## SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (ESE, 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcel 99Q was categorized as a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels are areas that have no evidence of storage, release, or disposal of CERCLA-related hazardous substance or petroleum products but that do have other environmental or safety concerns (ESE, 1998). Parcel 99Q was qualified because chemicals of potential concern and UXO may

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES  
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

**Anniston Calhoun County Public Library**

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Telephone: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Houston Cole Library**

9th Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

be present at the site as a result of historical range activities.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 99Q will remain a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel.

**SITE INVESTIGATION**

An SI was conducted at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q, to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT Corporation, 2003).

Environmental sampling conducted during the SI included the collection of 13 surface soil

samples, 13 subsurface soil samples, and 1 groundwater sample. Surface soil samples were collected from the uppermost foot of soil, and subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. The groundwater sample was collected from a monitoring well installed at the site during the SI. All samples were analyzed for metals and explosive compounds. In addition, approximately ten percent of the samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, and herbicides.

Metals, VOCs, and one pesticide were detected in site media. SVOCs, herbicides, and explosive

compounds were not detected in any of the samples collected at the site. To evaluate whether the detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

Although the site is projected for passive recreation reuse (EDAW, Inc., 1997), the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for unrestricted land reuse. VOC concentrations in site media were below SSSLs. Chemicals of potential concern were limited to aluminum (subsurface soil), iron (subsurface soil), thallium (groundwater), and the pesticide beta-hexachlorocyclohexane (BHC) (groundwater). The elevated metals results were determined to be the result of either a laboratory artifact (thallium) or variation in naturally occurring levels (aluminum and iron).

The chlorinated pesticide beta-BHC was detected in the groundwater sample at a low estimated concentration (0.000062 milligrams per liter) exceeding its SSSL (0.000036 milligrams per liter). Given the uncertainty associated with the estimated analytical result and the small amount by which it exceeded its SSSL, beta-BHC is not expected to pose a threat to human health.

No chemicals of potential ecological concern were identified at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q.

#### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION**

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 99Q. No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. Regarding CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q.

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost:	\$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	\$0
Present Worth Cost:	\$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

#### **DECLARATION**

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q. The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This

remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 99Q.

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

Mr. Ronald M. Levy  
Fort McClellan BRAC  
Environmental Coordinator  
Tel: (256) 848-3539

E-mail: LevyR@mcclellan-emh2.army.mil

## ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BHC	hexachlorocyclohexane
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VOC	volatile organic compound

**Prepared under direction of:**

---

Lee D. Coker  
Environmental Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Mobile, Alabama

---

Date

**Reviewed by:**

---

Ronald M. Levy  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

---

Date

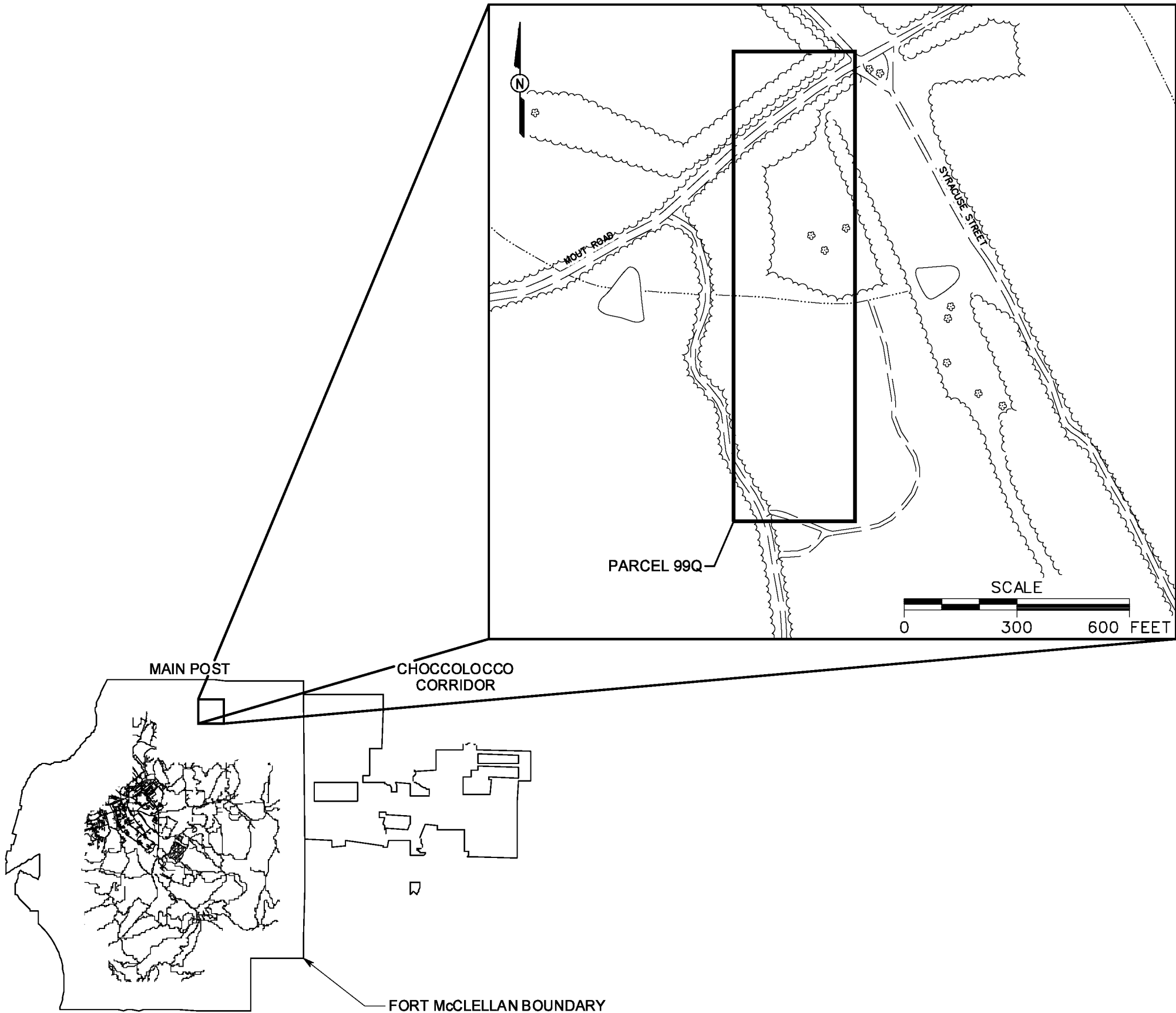
**Approved by:**

---

Glynn D. Ryan  
Site Manager  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

---

Date



**LEGEND**

- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
- TREES / TREELINE
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK

**FIGURE 1**  
**SITE MAP**  
**FORMER RIFLE/MACHINE GUN RANGE**  
**PARCEL 99Q**

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
MOBILE DISTRICT  
FORT McCLELLAN  
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA  
Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018